

NEWS RELEASE

Pacific Northwest Region - Colville National Forest
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Come Join the Colville BioBlitz 2016

Colville, WASH. (April 13, 2016) – The Colville National Forest and the Upper Columbia Children's Forest are teaming up with The National Geographic Society to host two BioBlitz events May 21, in Colville.

The National Geographic Society, National Forest Service, and National Park Service are partnering to host BioBlitzes across the United States in 2016. A BioBlitz is an outdoor citizen science activity where teams of scientists, students, teachers, and community members work together to find and identify as many species of plants, animals, and other organisms as possible. BioBlitz events are a fun and meaningful way to connect people to the outdoors. For more information on the national BioBlitz please visit www.nationalgeographic.com/explorers/projects/bioblitz/.

The Upper Columbia Children's Forest is sponsoring two BioBlitzes in Colville, Washington Saturday, May 21, 2016 to explore the diversity of life in our own backyard. The morning BioBlitz is on Colville Mountain. Meet at 9am on May Road 0.5 miles up the road beyond the end of the pavement on the west side of Colville Mountain. Leaders will guide groups up the dirt road on the west and south-facing side of the mountain tallying and snapping photos of all plants, animals, birds, and insects that they see. The steep 800-foot one-way hike is about 1½ miles up to the "C" (3 miles roundtrip). Wear appropriate shoes and clothing, and bring water and snacks or lunch. If you haven't been "up the mountain," there's a great view from the "C."

The second BioBlitz starts at 1pm from the junction of Hawthorne and Evergreen Streets. It's at the "top" or east end of Hawthorne Street. This BioBlitz will include the flat 2.3-mile loop of the Rotary Trail and 1-mile Graham Hill Trail loop with a 50-foot climb. Let's see what's living in the ponds, creeks, and forests along the way. Bring something to drink and dress for the weather.

Observations of plants, animals, birds, and insects from the BioBlitzes will be documented in the free citizen science web application iNaturalist via cell phones or camera uploads. Come for the hikes or if you want to participate in citizen science, check out the iNaturalist website, www.iNaturalist.org, and bring a cell phone or camera. Through iNaturalist we'll have a record of all that is seen for the day in beautiful Colville, Washington. The Upper Columbia Children's Forest is a partnership between the Colville National Forest and the Stevens County Conservation District.

For more information, please contact Dana Bowers, Upper Columbia Children's Forest coordinator at 685-0937, extension101.

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The mission of the US Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. Recreational activities on our lands contribute \$14.5 billion annually to the U.S. economy. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world.



for the greatest good